

Appl. No. : 09/879,364
Filed : June 12, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a housing having a passage and a piston comprising a rigid material and positioned within said passage, the valve adapted for connection to said second medical implement and having an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, the piston having a first position in which said piston prevents fluid flow through said valve and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said valve, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement, wherein said housing further comprises at least one screw thread on an outside surface of said housing, said valve further comprising at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

13. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 12, wherein said piston additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

14. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 12, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

15. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 12, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said passage.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a housing having a passage configured for ~~in~~-communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, a rigid piston positioned within said housing and movable between a first position in which fluid flow is prevented through said housing and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said housing, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement, wherein said housing comprises at least one screw thread for detachably securing said first medical implement to said valve, said valve further comprising at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

20. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 19, wherein said piston additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

21. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 19, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a housing having a passage configured for ~~in~~-communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, a rigid piston positioned within said housing and movable between a first position in which fluid flow is prevented through said housing and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said housing, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to

generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement, said valve further comprising at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

25. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 24, wherein said piston additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

26. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 24, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

27. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 24, wherein a ledge is positioned within said passage.

28. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 27, wherein said piston comprises a shoulder which engages said ledge when said sealing element is in said first position.

29. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 12, wherein a ledge is positioned within said passage.

30. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 29, wherein said piston comprises a shoulder that engages said ledge when said piston is in said first position.

31. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 19, wherein said at least one screw thread is located on an outside surface of said housing.

32. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 19, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said cavity.

33. (Previously Presented) The medical valve of Claim 24, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said cavity.